

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

FACT, NEWS, AND GOSSIP.

See How the Boys-Commodore of Internal Revenue—An Anecdote—The Congress Cases.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, March 14.—There was no session of the Senate to-day, and the House side was deserted. In fact, your representative, with an exception of the navy and ex-Representative Franklin, of Missouri, whose father went from Stafford county, Va., were the only persons, except a page or two, who were in the hall. There were few visitors about the building, and the conclusion reached was that in the last few days a great many Democratic representatives and applicants for office have left Washington. The President and Cabinet are too slow for the boys in making removals. One of them, by the way, was said to be a brother office-seeker that he had been making a calculation, and had ascertained that at the present rate of removals take just fifty-seven years and nine months to "clean the rascals out." The question of the appointment of Commissioner of Internal Revenue has been all day discussed. It is conceded that Phil Thompson, of Kentucky, whose paper was signed by nearly all the Democrats of the House and Senate, is beaten, and that the contest is between Miller, of West Virginia, and Buckner, of Missouri. West Virginians seem certain of the nomination of the latter called on Secretary Manning to-day, and expressed themselves as highly pleased with the interview. The expectation is that a nomination for the office named will be made early next week.

AN ANECDOTE ABOUT MR. LINCOLN.

A New England Republican representative to-day told me an anecdote about Mr. Lincoln I had not before heard. He said that "Old Abe" during the war went to see a minister, and the end-man heard he was coming and prepared for him to come. He came down to Washington with four other darkies to see Mr. Lincoln. I went at 4 o'clock in the morning to the White House, and there other niggers was all there waiting for him to get up. After awhile he came in and said, "Boys, which of you wants an office?" Every nigger jumped right up and said, "I want one." Mr. Lincoln said, "Now, I can't give you all offices, but I'll tell you a story. There was a man, a Prince who never went hunting unless his astronomer predicted fair weather. As he was leaving his palace on one occasion he met a darky driving a donkey. The darky said, 'Mr. Prince, your jacket will be wet in two hours.' 'How do you know?' asked the Prince. The darky replied, 'Because whenever that there donkey's ears are down like they are now it's time to rain sure.' It did rain, and the Prince appointed the donkey as his astronomer. 'That was a wise thing,' said one of the niggers. 'Noit wasn't,' replied Mr. Lincoln, 'for ever since the donkeys in the land have been applying for office.' " Old Abe sat back in his box and laughed heartily at the joke at his expense.

PERSONAL NEWS ITEMS.

Major John W. Daniel has gone home, and so have nearly all of the Virginians who were here a day or so ago. I met Mr. Blaine's Mr. McSwain, and he is a lively Democrat, and wants reformation in the departments. Hon. John S. Barbour and Hon. George D. Wise were on "the avenue" this afternoon. Attorney-General Garland is counsel for the Supreme Court for Virginia in the coupon cases, which are set for Monday, but which, I think, will not be reached before Wednesday. A. S. Garnett, of Essex, is in the city. It looks as if John K. Childrey, of Richmond, will be made internal-revenue collector for your district. He is sharply backed by the tobacco-men and others.

A VERY PERSONAL PARAGRAPH.

This letter will close my winter's work at Washington for the Dispatch. I have written nothing in malice and have endeavored to secure accurate information in regard to such matters as I thought would interest its readers.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

To-day opened with snow and closed as balmy as May.

Government receipts to-day: Customs, \$531,170; internal revenue, \$373,880.

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE CALLED ON PRESIDENT CLEVELAND LAST EVENING.

Secretary Whitney will spend to-morrow in New York.

Secretary Manning has removed J. P. Heyden, superintendent of the public building at Harrisburg, Pa., and appointed a Democrat in his place.

Commander Evans has been restored to his duty as inspector of the Fifth light-house district. It will be remembered that he was removed by Secretary Chandler because he would not make removals for political reasons.

The friends of ex-Senator Pendleton are working for him for Minister to Great Britain. The report is that Mr. Bayard would like to have him as Assistant Secretary of State.

The President's mail was very heavy to-day.

Senators Kenna, George, Jackson, Pugh, Morgan, Camden, Blackburn, and Speaker Carlisle were at the White House to-day. Representatives S. S. Cox, Barbour, and Johnson of North Carolina, were also there.

A crack calling himself Winfield Scott Hancock was sent to the work-house to-day. He has been lurking about the President's grounds, and says he walked from North Carolina here in three weeks.

The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee to-day considered the situation in Central America.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

Negotiations Progressing Looking to the Avoidance of a Warlike Collision.

(By cable to the Dispatch.)

LONDON, March 13.—The Standard says the agreement between England and Russia, looking to the avoidance of a warlike collision, is progressing. Matters must have been bad when such an agreement was made as a diplomatic gain. Many consider the peace in the situation as a prelude to a surrender.

Gladstone's statements in the House of Commons last night regarding the Anglo-Russian situation have had a similar effect. The North Atlantic squadron three vessels—the Galena, Powhatan, and Swatara—are now in Central American waters. The entire squadron will be held subject to orders from Washington. These movements are understood to have direct reference to the endeavor of General Barrios to make himself "supreme military chief of Central America."

Secretary Lamar to-day directed the chief clerk and superintendent of the Interior Department to dispose of the property of the Interior Department, excepting those used for trucking purposes, the proceeds of said sale to be covered into the Treasury.

The sale is to take place "as soon as consistent with the interests of the public service." The result of this order will be the return to their regular duties of seven employees who have been used as drivers.

A similar order has been made by Attorney-General Garland.

Barrios' Threatened Occupation.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

LIBERTAD SAN SALVADOR, March 14.—The firm attitude assumed by Mexico in behalf of the autonomy of San Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica against the threatened usurpation of President Barrios, of Guatemala, excites grateful enthusiasm throughout the three republics. The determination of the people of these countries to resist the incorporation into one republic under the domination of Barrios continues steadfast, and the fall of Barrios is considered certain. The Mexican Legation, which has been directed to leave Guatemala and proceed to San Salvador, is expected to reach the latter city within a few days. The forces of San Salvador are being concentrated on the frontier of Guatemala. The general opinion here is that the scheme of Barrios will meet with an ignominious failure.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 14.—The action of the Mexican Government in condemning General Barrios' pretensions is warmly commended by the newspapers.

The city of Mexico is almost all of them recommending that it should be necessary to put Barrios down the Mexican army be sent to aid San Salvador and Nicaragua. It is considered by many here that if Barrios should succeed in making himself dictator of Central America his next attempt would be on the Mexican States of Tabasco and Chiapas.

Pope, Cole & Co.

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BALTIMORE, March 14.—The failure of Pope, Cole & Co. has made a serious impression upon industrial interests. The Baltimore Copper-Works gave employment to several hundred operatives, who in a short time may be added to the already large number of idle men in the city, and it is impossible now to predict what will be the outcome. An effort will be made to continue the business, Morton Stewart, who has been made trustee, has a large business experience, and the hope is expressed that he will be able to straighten out the entanglement. Pope, Cole & Co. had large contracts for copper-ore at prices not warranted by the present low price of copper, and an endeavor to which would have entailed much greater loss.

Pneumonia Mortality in New York.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, March 14.—The total number of deaths from pneumonia in the city this large number of 149, this is the highest number of deaths from that disease in any one week on record. During the last six weeks the increase in the number of deaths from this disease has been steady, the total number in six weeks being 781. Last year for the same six weeks the deaths from pneumonia were 538.

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"The employment of arsenic in the manufacture of colored wall-papers is extensive," was asked.

"It is both extensive and dangerous. The frequency with which it is found in articles which one sees about the house daily is alarming. It is discovered in large quantities in many domestic fabrics and in a great many varieties of wall-papers. I know of about forty different wall-papers which contain arsenic in dangerously large quantities. It was once supposed that green papers were the only ones which were arsenical, but at present arsenic is more frequently found in all papers of other colors. The color, however, is not a sure guide, and is not to be depended upon. People become afraid to buy green papers, and if they are free from poison than they formerly were it is due to the fact that the manufacturers had to make them without arsenic in order to find a sale for them. The green pigments used now for coloring papers, such as a rule, mixture of green arsenical blue and yellow, such as Prussian blue and chrome yellow.

PAPERS TO BE AVOIDED.

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In this case the poison was probably used in the paste which fastened the pigments to the paper, and when used in this way it is dangerous because it can be detached in the form of dust, or in a humid atmosphere it would be set free and form arsenicized hygienic.

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"O, yes; I think that no safety or protection can be secured by purchasing high-priced goods. In the samples of arsenical paper here you see that some pieces marked \$2 a bolt contain more than five grains of arsenic to the square yard."

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